

# Package ‘intrval’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Relational Operators for Intervals

**Version** 1.0-0

**Date** 2025-07-12

**Maintainer** Peter Solymos <psolymos@gmail.com>

**Description** Evaluating if values

of vectors are within different open/closed intervals

(` x %[]% c(a, b)`), or if two closed

intervals overlap (` c(a1, b1) %[]o[%] c(a2, b2)`).

Operators for negation and directional relations also implemented.

**License** GPL-2

**Imports** fpCompare

**URL** <https://github.com/psolymos/intrval>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/psolymos/intrval/issues>

**LazyLoad** yes

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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## Description

Evaluating if values of vectors are within different open/closed intervals ('x %[]% c(a, b)'), or if two closed intervals overlap ('c(a1, b1) %[]o[]% c(a2, b2)'). Operators for negation and directional relations also implemented.

## Details

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Relational operators for value-to-interval comparisons: [%\[\]%](#) and alikes.

Relational operators for interval-to-interval comparisons: [%\[o\]%](#) and alikes.

Negated value matching: [%ni%](#).

**Author(s)**

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intrval

*Relational Operators Comparing Values to Intervals*

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**Description**

Functions for evaluating if values of vectors are within intervals.

**Usage**

```
x %[]% interval
x %)(% interval
x %[<]% interval
x %[>]% interval

x %[])% interval
x %)[% interval
x %[(<)% interval
x %[(>)% interval

x %()% interval
x %)](% interval
x %(<)% interval
x %(>)% interval

x %()% interval
x %][% interval
x %(<)% interval
x %(>)% interval

intrval_types(type = NULL, plot = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| x        | vector or <b>NULL</b> : the values to be compared to interval endpoints.  |
| interval | vector, 2-column matrix, list, or <b>NULL</b> : the interval end points.  |
| type     | character, type of operator for subsetting the results. The default <b>NULL</b> means that all types will be displayed. |
| plot     | logical, whether to plot the results, or print a table to the console instead.  |

## Details

Values of  $x$  are compared to *interval* endpoints  $a$  and  $b$  ( $a \leq b$ ). Endpoints can be defined as a vector with two values ( $c(a, b)$ ): these values will be compared as a single interval with each value in  $x$ . If endpoints are stored in a matrix-like object or a list, comparisons are made element-wise. If lengths do not match, shorter objects are recycled. These value-to-interval operators work for numeric (integer, real) and ordered vectors, and object types which are measured at least on ordinal scale (e.g. dates), see Examples. Note: *interval* endpoints are sorted internally thus ensuring the condition  $a \leq b$  is not necessary.

The type argument or the specification of the special function determines the open (( and )) or closed ([ and ]) endpoints and relations.

There are four types of intervals ([], [], (), ()), their negation ()(), ()[], ()[], respectively), less than ([<], [<], (<), (<)), and greater than ([>], [>], (>), (>)) relations.

Note that some operators return identical results but are syntactically different: %[<% and %[<)% both evaluate  $x < a$ ; %[>% and %(>)% both evaluate  $x > b$ ; %(<)% and %(<)% evaluate  $x \leq a$ ; %[>)% and %(>)% both evaluate  $x \geq b$ . This is so because we evaluate only one end of the interval but still conceptually referring to the relationship defined by the right-hand-side *interval* object and given that  $a \leq b$ . This implies 2 conditional logical evaluations instead of treating it as a single 3-level ordered factor.

## Value

A logical vector, indicating if  $x$  is in the specified interval. Values are TRUE, FALSE, or NA (when any of the 3 values ( $x$  or endpoints in *interval*) are NA).

The helper function *intrval\_types* can be used to understand and visualize the operators' effects. It returns a matrix explaining the properties of the operators.

## Author(s)

Peter Solymos <[solymos@ualberta.ca](mailto:solymos@ualberta.ca)>

## See Also

See help page for relational operators: [Comparison](#).

See [%\[o\]%](#) for relational operators for interval-to-interval comparisons.

See [factor](#) for the behavior with factor arguments. See also [%in%](#) for value matching and [%ni%](#) for negated value matching for factors.

See [Syntax](#) for operator precedence.

## Examples

```
## motivating example from example(lm)

## Annette Dobson (1990) "An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models".
## Page 9: Plant Weight Data.
ctl <- c(4.17,5.58,5.18,6.11,4.50,4.61,5.17,4.53,5.33,5.14)
trt <- c(4.81,4.17,4.41,3.59,5.87,3.83,6.03,4.89,4.32,4.69)
group <- gl(2, 10, 20, labels = c("Ctl","Trt"))
```

```

weight <- c(ctl, trt)
lm.D9 <- lm(weight ~ group)
## compare 95% confidence intervals with 0
(CI.D9 <- confint(lm.D9))
0 %[]% CI.D9

## comparing dates

DATE <- as.Date(c("2000-01-01", "2000-02-01", "2000-03-31"))
DATE %[<]% as.Date(c("2000-01-151", "2000-03-15"))
DATE %[% as.Date(c("2000-01-151", "2000-03-15"))
DATE %[>]% as.Date(c("2000-01-151", "2000-03-15"))

## interval formats

x <- rep(4, 5)
a <- 1:5
b <- 3:7
cbind(x=x, a=a, b=b)
x %[]% cbind(a, b) # matrix
x %[]% data.frame(a=a, b=b) # data.frame
x %[]% list(a, b) # list

## helper functions

intrval_types() # print
intrval_types(plot = TRUE) # plot

## graphical examples

## bounding box
set.seed(1)
n <- 10^4
x <- runif(n, -2, 2)
y <- runif(n, -2, 2)
iv1 <- x %[]% c(-1, 1) & y %[]% c(-1, 1)
plot(x, y, pch = 19, cex = 0.25, col = iv1 + 1, main = "Bounding box")

## time series filtering
x <- seq(0, 4*24*60*60, 60*60)
dt <- as.POSIXct(x, origin="2000-01-01 00:00:00")
f <- as.POSIXlt(dt)$hour %[]% c(0, 11)
plot(sin(x) ~ dt, type="l", col="grey",
     main = "Filtering date/time objects")
points(sin(x) ~ dt, pch = 19, col = f + 1)

## watch precedence
(2 * 1:5) %[]% (c(2, 3) * 2)
2 * 1:5 %[]% (c(2, 3) * 2)
(2 * 1:5) %[]% c(2, 3) * 2
2 * 1:5 %[]% c(2, 3) * 2

```

---

<b>intrval-options</b>	<i>Global options for the intrval package</i>
------------------------	---

---

## Description

Options store and allow to set global values for the intrval functions.

## Usage

```
intrval_options(...)
```

## Arguments

... Options to set.

## Value

When parameters are set by `intrval_options`, their former values are returned in an invisible named list. Such a list can be passed as an argument to `intrval_options` to restore the parameter values. Tags are the following:

- `use_fpCompare`: use the `fpCompare` package for the reliable comparison of floating point numbers.

## Examples

```
str(intrval_options())
x1 <- 0.5 - 0.3
x2 <- 0.3 - 0.1

# save old values and set the new one
op <- intrval_options(use_fpCompare = FALSE)

# this is the base R behavior
x1
x2

# reset defaults
intrval_options(op)

# using fpCompare
x1
x2
```

---

**overlap***Relational Operators Comparing Two Intervals*

---

**Description**

Functions for evaluating if two intervals overlap or not.

**Usage**

```
interval1 %[o]% interval2
interval1 %)o(% interval2
interval1 %[<o]% interval2
interval1 %[o>]% interval2

interval1 %(o)% interval2
interval1 %]o[% interval2
interval1 %(<o)% interval2
interval1 %(o>)% interval2

interval1 %[]o[]% interval2
interval1 %[]o[% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %[]o[]% interval2
interval1 %[]o[% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %[]o[]% interval2
interval1 %[]o[% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %[]o()% interval2
interval1 %()o[]% interval2
interval1 %()o[% interval2
interval1 %()o()% interval2
interval1 %()o[% interval2
interval1 %()o()% interval2
interval1 %()o()% interval2
```

**Arguments**

interval1, interval2

vector, 2-column matrix, list, or NULL: the interval end points of two (sets) of closed intervals to compare.

**Details**

The operators define the open/closed nature of the lower/upper limits of the intervals on the left and right hand side of the o in the middle.

The overlap of two closed intervals,  $[a_1, b_1]$  and  $[a_2, b_2]$ , is evaluated by the  $\%[o]\%$  (alias for  $\%[]o[]\%$ ) operator ( $a_1 \leq b_1, a_2 \leq b_2$ ). Endpoints can be defined as a vector with two values ( $c(a_1, b_1)$ ) or can be stored in matrix-like objects or a lists in which case comparisons are made element-wise. If lengths do not match, shorter objects are recycled. These value-to-interval operators work for numeric (integer, real) and ordered vectors, and object types which are measured at least on ordinal scale (e.g. dates), see Examples. Note: interval endpoints are sorted internally thus ensuring the conditions  $a_1 \leq b_1$  and  $a_2 \leq b_2$  is not necessary.  $\%)o(\%$  is used for the negation of two closed interval overlap, directional evaluation is done via the operators  $\%[<o]\%$  and  $\%[o>]\%$ .

The overlap of two open intervals is evaluated by the  $\%(o)\%$  (alias for  $\%()o()%$ ).  $\%]o[\%$  is used for the negation of two open interval overlap, directional evaluation is done via the operators  $\%(<o)\%$  and  $\%(>o)\%$ .

Overlap operators with mixed endpoint do not have negation and directional counterparts.

## Value

A logical vector, indicating if `interval1` overlaps `interval2`. Values are TRUE, FALSE, or NA.

## Author(s)

Peter Solymos <[solymos@ualberta.ca](mailto:solymos@ualberta.ca)>

## See Also

See help page for relational operators: [Comparison](#).

See [%\[\]%](#) for relational operators for value-to-interval comparisons.

See [factor](#) for the behavior with factor arguments. See also [%in%](#) for value matching and [%ni%](#) for negated value matching for factors.

See [Syntax](#) for operator precedence.

## Examples

```
## motivating examples from example(lm)

## Annette Dobson (1990) "An Introduction to Generalized Linear Models".
## Page 9: Plant Weight Data.
ctl <- c(4.17,5.58,5.18,6.11,4.50,4.61,5.17,4.53,5.33,5.14)
trt <- c(4.81,4.17,4.41,3.59,5.87,3.83,6.03,4.89,4.32,4.69)
group <- gl(2, 10, 20, labels = c("Ctl","Trt"))
weight <- c(ctl, trt)
lm.D90 <- lm(weight ~ group - 1) # omitting intercept
## compare 95% confidence of the 2 groups to each other
(CI.D90 <- confint(lm.D90))
CI.D90[,1] %[o]% CI.D90[,2]

## simple interval comparisons
c(2:3) %[o]% c(0:1)

## vectorized comparisons
c(2:3) %[o]% list(0:4, 1:5)
```



## Description

Functions for evaluating if values of vectors are within intervals, or less than or higher than interval endpoints. The c within the brackets refer to [cut](#), a similar function.

## Usage

```
x %[c]%
x %[c)%
x %(c]%
x %(c)%
```

## Arguments

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| x        | vector or NULL: the values to be compared to interval endpoints. |
| interval | vector, 2-column matrix, list, or NULL: the interval end points. |

## Value

Values of x are compared to interval endpoints a and b ( $a \leq b$ ) (see [%\[\]%](#) for details). The functions return an integer vector taking values -1L (value of x is less than or equal to a, depending on the interval type), 0L (value of x is inside the interval), or 1L (value of x is greater than or equal to b, depending on the interval type).

## Author(s)

Peter Solymos <[solymos@ualberta.ca](mailto:solymos@ualberta.ca)>

## See Also

Similar functions (but not quite): [sign](#), [cut](#), [.bincode](#), [findInterval](#).

See relational operators for intervals: [%\[\]%](#).

See [Syntax](#) for operator precedence.

## Examples

```
x <- 1:5
x %[c]%
x %[c)%
x %(c]%
x %(c)%
```

---

<code>%ni%</code>	<i>Negated Value Matching</i>
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---

## Description

`%ni%` is the negation of `%in%`, which returns a logical vector indicating if there is a non-match or not for its left operand. `%nin%` and `%notin%` are aliases for better code readability (`%in%` can look very much like `%ni%`).

## Usage

```
x %ni% table  
x %nin% table  
x %notin% table
```

## Arguments

<code>x</code>	vector or NULL: the values to be matched.
<code>table</code>	vector or NULL: the values to be matched against.

## Value

A logical vector, indicating if a non-match was located for each element of `x`: thus the values are TRUE or FALSE and never NA.

## Author(s)

Peter Solymos <solymos@ualberta.ca>

## See Also

All the opposite of what is written for `%in%`.

See relational operators for intervals: `%[]%`.

See [Syntax](#) for operator precedence.

## Examples

```
1:10 %ni% c(1,3,5,9)  
1:10 %nin% c(1,3,5,9)  
1:10 %notin% c(1,3,5,9)  
  
sstr <- c("c", "ab", "B", "bba", "c", NA, "@", "bla", "a", "Ba", "%")  
sstr[sstr %ni% c(letters, LETTERS)]
```

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